

# Country Journal

*Devoted to the Needs of the Hilltowns*

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Middlefield, Montgomery, Otis, Plainfield, Russell, Sandisfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

June 3, 2021 | Vol. 43, No. 6 | 75¢

www.countryjournal.turley.com

## GOSHEN

### New Fire Chief comes from within

By Shelby Macri

With the announcement of the current Fire Chief Sue Labrie's resignation this year, the Selectboard has been looking to find a new chief as soon as possible so they can train with Labrie and has found her replacement, appointed on May 20.

At the May 17 Selectboard meeting, two people attended to speak in favor of Cameron Lacey. Captain Monica Neveu and Lieutenant Stephen Estelle spoke in favor of Lacey for the Fire Chief position before Lacey was appointed as the new Fire Chief on May 20.

Labrie also expressed her support for Lacey as the new Chief, saying Lacey has been a member of the Goshen Fire Department for the last 10 years and has been the Emergency Vehicle Operator Trainer for many of the years he's been on the force.

"I am very pleased that Lieutenant Cam Lacey will be replacing me as Fire Chief upon my retirement on June 20," Labrie said. "I have

CHIEF, page 6

## HONORING THE FALLEN



Residents crowded onto Middlefield Road in Chester to observe the Memorial Day Ceremony on the steps of Town Hall on Monday, May 1. See story page 6 and more photos on pages 8 and 9.

Photo by Peter Spotts



Members of the Williamsburg Police and Fire Departments stand at attention while residents gathered at Veteran's Memorial Park to honor Memorial Day on Monday, May 31. More photos and story on page 7.

Photo by Shelby Macri

## WILLIAMSBURG

### Police cruiser leads ATM purchases

By Peter Spotts

Annual Town Meeting has a variety of purchases on the warrant for fiscal 2022 for residents to decide on when the meeting convenes on Monday, June 7.

One of those purchases includes \$55,100 for the purchase and equipping of a new Ford Police Utility AWD Vehicle. This purchase is on schedule with the town's five-year capital plan. However, the department will be getting a second vehicle as well after one was totaled this past winter. Town Administrator Nicholas Caccamo said insurance should cover the replacement of that vehicle.

CRUISER, page 7

## WESTHAMPTON

### Mosquito spray opt out approved

By Shelby Macri

The final Selectboard meeting of May had a few topics concerning the Board of Health, as well as a public safety concern brought up by the Agricultural Commission.

Board of Health member Robbie Armenti attended the meeting to speak about opting out of the Eastern Equine Encephalitis mosquito spraying and the re-opening plan for the town. Armenti said the BOH recom-

MOSQUITO, page 10

## CHESTER

### Board of Selectmen debates education fund allocation

By Peter Spotts

The Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee debated the best way to utilize the \$82,784 put aside in the Education Stabilization Fund, created last year as a backup for it the Gateway Regional School District Assessment hit the town hard.

Facing about a \$106,000 increase this year under the Statutory method, Finance Committee Chair Andy Myers approached the Selectboard about how they felt the situation should be handled. He said the committee considered two options — expend the entire account balance to reduce the

increase as much as possible or commit \$23,325 to level fund the assessment to last year.

"Given the fact gateway is actually level funding their budget, the student census really skewed high for us so that's the reason for that [increase]," Myers said. "We can use some of the education stabilization fund to offset that, if we want to."

Selectman John Baldasaro strongly supported expending the entire amount, arguing this is exactly the situation the fund was created for.

"When we did the education stabilization account it was exactly for this reason. We were anticipating an

increase. I think we should expend it," he said.

Chair Barbara Huntoon disagreed, citing her concern about not having any safety buffer for future years and supported using \$23,325.

"That gives us a little bit of a buffer, but as Andy said level fund. I don't think we should deplete that entire account all at once," she said. "It's clear that the Alternative Assessment, as great as an idea as it is...there are certain towns in this district that are not going to go that way unless it benefits them, so we're going to still have the swings."

Baldasaro argued the education money is earmarked strictly for education

and using it all would free up money in other parts of the town budget.

"If we expend this, it would actually free up money in other areas," he said.

Jason Forgue sided with Huntoon. He voiced his concerns about the town's history of not planning properly long term and doesn't want to see the same mistake made here.

"I think our biggest problem with this town the past several decades is our failure to plan long term. A lot of what we were hit with this year was simply a failure to plan long term," Forgue

FUND, page 6

## WORTHINGTON

### Citizen complaint brought to board

By Peter Spotts

The discussion regarding a citizen's complaint about her experience at the Transfer Station was contentious on Tuesday, May 25, during the Selectboard's regular meeting.

Mya Drawe attended the meeting to share her experience of going to get rid of her garbage and her unpleasant experience with Transfer Station Attendant Sue Asher.

COMPLAINT, page 6



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# HILLTOWNS

## Hinds pushes for further broadband access throughout the state

State Senator Adam G. Hinds, D-Pittsfield, announced the Massachusetts State Senate adopted his budget amendments to further broadband access throughout Massachusetts.

“The past year has shown elevated the centrality of connectivity and exposed a real digital divide,” said Hinds. “Whether it be remote work, virtual learning or telehealth, every community throughout our Commonwealth needs accessible and affordable broadband.”

The Massachusetts State Senate adopted the following of Senator Hinds’ amendments: Amendment 838 to direct the Department of Telecommunications and Cable to collect data on the basics of broadband service in Massachusetts, with the goal of gaining a clear, fact-based understanding of the availability, affordability, service quality, and competitive health of the broadband market in the Commonwealth.

“The Commonwealth cannot develop an effective, statewide broadband policy if it does not have relevant information,” said Hinds. “Collecting accurate data supports the ability to collaborate with statewide partners to identify weaknesses in the broadband market and help close the digital divide in both urban and rural areas.”

Amendment 914 is to allow a town to continue to issue one-year temporary refunding notes exclusively for broadband construction debt without paying any portion of principal from revenue funds until such time as the state’s award of the FCC’s Connecting America Funds are released from escrow.

“It is important now more than ever that we support our local communities,” said Hinds. “This is a way to provide broadband debt relief that reduces strain on both local communities and the Commonwealth.”

When the Massachusetts State Senate concludes its fiscal 2022 Budget debate, a six-member conference committee will be appointed by House and Senate Leadership to craft the final budget. This spending plan will be enacted and sent to the Governor for his review.

## Starfires host Hilltown Night June 27

HUNTINGTON — The Recreation Committee along with the Little League and in conjunction with other towns present “Hilltown Night” at the Westfield Starfires baseball game on Sunday, June 27, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are only \$10, and a hamburger, soft drink, and chips can be added on for only \$5. It is general admission and tickets can be purchased directly. The game will be held at Bullens Field 135 King St Ext., in Westfield.

The Recreation Committee is also finalizing plans for their summer camp planned to begin around mid-July. Camp will be different from past years as planning was made with Covid restrictions and will be a mix of virtual and in person events. Stay tuned for more details.

Any information on either event can be sent to recreation@huntingtonma.us.

## North Hall hosts Arts Festival 2021

HUNTINGTON — After a year-long break for Historic North Hall Festival, live music is coming back this summer.

The North Hall Association’s Annual Arts Festival 2021 is hosting five free one hour live music outdoor concerts on Sunday afternoons at 2 pm on the Huntington Town Common Green in August and September, subject to current COVID-19 restrictions with social distancing and masks as required.

Concerts are fair weather dependent and will be cancelled for inclement weather. There will be no intermission or refreshments, and no indoor facility use. It is advisable to check the North Hall website for weather cancellation at noon on day of concert.

The five one-hour concerts planned begin in August with Khalif Neville Trio on Aug.1. Keyboardist and composer Khalif Neville and his trio, blend traditional jazz forms with styles of funk, R&B and hip-hop drawn from New Orleans groove and contemporary influences.

Wild Thyme Band follows on Aug.15 with Celtic folk music, drawing from the rich repertoire of Irish and Scottish traditional music and some French Celtic music.

On Aug. 29, Old Country Road brings vintage country; dedicated to keeping the sound of “true” country music.

The final two concerts start on Sept.12, with The Bob Sparkman Trio.

NORWICH HILL

The First Congregational Church of Huntington reminds everyone even though our physical doors are closed until further notice, we are most definitely open for worship, praise, ministry, and fellowship. We are an Open and Affirming Church inviting, welcoming, and affirming everyone — seekers, believers, and wonderers alike — on their journey of faith, to join in 10 a.m. Zoom Sunday worship.

Our reading from Mark 3:20-35 invites us into a story of relationships - family, spiritual, political, power, and internal; as we wonder about how those relationships reflect our relationship with God.

The pastor is always available to speak with you. If you do not receive our emails and would like to connect with our Zoom worship service and/or fellowship time, please contact Pastor Carol at firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com to receive the information you will need to participate or send us a message on Facebook.

Please use the phone numbers and email address provided to stay in touch or to contact the pastor. You are also invited to find us on Facebook at “Norwich Hill” for updates, information, and spiritual encouragement. For more information, please contact 413-667-3935 or 860-798-7771 or firstchurchofhuntington@gmail.com.

## MONTGOMERY

### Book and plant sale returns next Saturday

MONTGOMERY — The Grace Hall Memorial Library’s Annual Book and Plant sale is returning on Saturday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little Red School House on Pitcher Street.

Proceeds from this sale will help fund Library events this summer. It’s a great time to pick up some summer beach reads.

This Summer reading Program will kick off with Aesop Fables zoom craft with Mary Jo Maichack on July 8 at 6 p.m. Participants will make their own Mini theater and put on an Aesop’s Fable Puppet show. Make-and-Take Kits are available at the library. Stop by today to pick them up and get a zoom invite.

Ed the Wizard will be here live and outside for balloon Twisting Dragons on July 13 at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to come to the Montgomery Library and learn to twist a balloon dragon and many more animals.

Jay Makita will perform “The day the Library went wild,” an outdoor live family music concert on July 15 at 6 p.m.

MIDDLEFIELD

MIDDLEFIELD SENIOR CENTER

Lunch is served at the Senior Center, 169 Skyline Trail, Middlefield, each Wednesday at noon.

A \$3 donation is suggested. Reservations should be made, and meal choice stated, by calling and leaving a message at 413-623-9990 the Monday before. Pick-up and delivery are available.

The menu on Wednesday, June 9, is juice roast pork with gravy, roasted Brussel sprouts, homemade stuffing. Rye bread, and applesauce.

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& MORNING OF SALE - 8:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

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HUNTINGTON

It Takes a Village launches fundraising campaign

HUNTINGTON — This June, the local nonprofit organization It Takes a Village will be running, biking, and strolling to raise money for family support programs such as home visits for families with newborns, parent support groups, and the Village Closet donation center in Huntington.

The “Moving Forward for Families” campaign hopes to raise \$2,500, which will go to fund volunteer training, childcare for the recently reinstated in-person parent groups, and the purchase of diapers and formula for families in need.

Last spring, Deb Schnappauf of Middlefield, a member of the It Takes a Village Board Of Directors, trained for and

ran a solo half-marathon fundraiser along River Road in Chester. This year, several more board members, staff, and volunteers will be running and biking in their own neighborhoods.

“It’s a great excuse to get out, get our bodies moving after a year of hunkering down, and raise awareness of important issues that local families are facing,” said Mollie Hartford, the development and outreach director at It Takes a Village.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound impact on young families. Nearly 20% of new parents can develop perinatal mood and anxiety disorders such as postpartum depression while pregnant or in the year following birth. However, researchers

from Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston found that the rate had risen to 36% during the COVID-19 pandemic. One in three U.S. families could not afford diapers even before the coronavirus outbreak.

Once the pandemic set in and millions of parents lost their jobs or had to stay home with remote-learning children, families already teetering on the edge of financial crisis found themselves with very few options. Physical and social isolation, which is so prevalent in rural areas and is a leading cause of postpartum mental health issues, was only exacerbated by stay-at-home orders, distancing guidelines, and strict hospital policies which led many pregnant and birthing people to deliver

their babies alone with no family or support people.

It Takes a Village continued to provide support to families all across Western Mass. throughout the pandemic. Home visit volunteers ran errands and checked in with new parents on the phone, parent groups moved online, and staff and volunteers delivered diapers, formula, and other essential supplies to families so babies could stay safe at home.

The Moving Forward for Families campaign will run June 1 through June 30. To sign up to “move” with It Takes a Village or to make a pledge, please visit [go.rallyup.com/hilltownvillage](http://go.rallyup.com/hilltownvillage) or contact [info@hilltownvillage.org](mailto:info@hilltownvillage.org).

Family Center, elementary school partner for story walk

HUNTINGTON — The Hilltown Family Center and Littleville Elementary School invite families to a story walk of the “Little Gardener” by Emily Hughes at Littleville Elementary School in Huntington beginning Wednesday, June 2 through Thursday, June 10.

Story walks combine the pleasures of reading wonderful children’s books aloud with all the joys and benefits of walking together outdoors. story walk is a fun, educational activity that places the pages from a children’s story along a popular walking route in your community. Conceived to inspire parents, teachers, and other adults to take young children outdoors to enjoy reading stories together, story walk helps build children’s interest in reading while encouraging healthy outdoor activity for both children and their grown-ups.

The “Little Gardener” is a gently, beautiful tale of a little gardener who worked very hard, but he was just too little, or at least he felt he was. The story teaches the importance of persistence. Littleville Pre-K students will enjoy the story walk during the school day as part of their programs.

Families from the community are invited to walk and read the story walk during daylight, non-school hours, 5-8

p.m., and on weekends. Participants are to adhere to all posted GRSD and Hilltown Family Center COVID-19 protocols.

This story walk was generously funded by a Community Development Block Grant through the Town of Chester and in collaboration with the Hilltown Family Center. For information about the event, please contact Susan LeBarron, Hilltown Family Center coordinator, at 413-667-2203, ext. 311, or [slebarron@hchcweb.org](mailto:slebarron@hchcweb.org).

The Hilltown Family Center, located at 9 Russell Road in Huntington, houses many of the Hilltown Community Health Center’s community programs and services, and offers an extensive list of resources for parents, caregivers, and families. The Family Center programs are built around the belief in nurturing strong families, by helping them to strengthen their flexibility and resilience.

Programs help families establish strong social connections and give concrete support in times of need, recognizing family’s strengths and understanding that being a parent is part natural and part learned. The Family Center also helps children connect and relate to their world.

For more about the Hilltown Family Center, please visit their Facebook page or [HCHCweb.org](http://HCHCweb.org).

ATM warrant short, but essential

HUNTINGTON — The Annual Town Meeting warrant has been kept short and sweet with 13 articles focused on essential town operations and the key budget items for fiscal 2022.

The one big purchase on the warrant is a new truck equipped with dump body and snowplow to replace the current 2009 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD truck for the Highway Department. The current Highway truck gave the department numerous issues this winter, including needing the frame welded to pass inspection just so the town could keep it active on the roads.

Article 11 will transfer \$12,000 from free cash for Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. This is an annual article transferring the same amount as previous years.

The Gateway Regional School District level funded the budget so this year’s assessment will be the same as last year’s under the Alternative Assessment

with no increase. Prior to this decision by the school committee to use Excess and Deficiency funds to level fund, the town had been facing a \$51,954 increase.

For fiscal 2022, the town has vocal tuition costs of \$626,967 in Article 9. The town’s cost for vocational transportation this year is in Article 10 and will be \$81,423.30.

The town budget has been level funded as much as possible with minimal increases across the board., the bulk being annual wage increases and insurance costs. The total budget increase from fiscal 2021 to fiscal 2022 is 1.71% totaling \$96,222.

The rest of the warrant articles are annual items that authorize Selectboard and other town officials to operate the town.

Annual Town Meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 7, at 7 p.m. in the performing Arts Center at Gateway Regional/Middle High School. A copy of the warrant is available at [huntingtonma.us](http://huntingtonma.us).

CUMMINGTON

Annual Town Meeting meets tomorrow

CUMMINGTON — Annual Town Meeting will convene next Friday, June 4, and the town has kept the warrant to essential budget, capital, and town operation items. The ATM starts at 7 p.m. at

Pettingill Park, weather permitting, and COVID-19 protocols will be in effect. A copy of the 13-warrant articles is available on the town website, [cummington-ma.gov](http://cummington-ma.gov).

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OPINION

GUEST COLUMN

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from an Oakham resident. He said after filling his bird feeder “a colorful explosion with some old favorites like cardinals, purple finches and goldfinches in their new spring outfits, along with some new arrivals, a Baltimore oriole, a rose-breasted grosbeak and the first indigo bunting that my wife had ever seen.”



The male indigo bunting is a small finch about 5 ½ inches long and is a deep blue. The female is brown with a paler breast. The female has faint wing bars. Both have a conical bill with the male’s dark gray and the female lighter gray. The male conspicuously sings from tops of trees and shrubs. Its song is a “sweet-sweet, chew-chew.” Its call is a sharp “spit” and given when someone approaches its nest. The female is secretive and her coloring makes her hard to spot. The female lays two to six white eggs in a nest of dead leaves, weed stems, grasses, and lines with finer grasses and downy materials. The indigo bunting places the nest in a fork of a tree or shrub. It inhabits brush and low trees near open area like over-grown fields. They forage on the ground and in low foliage for insects, weed seeds, wild berries and grains.

Sugar-loving woodpeckers

I have a pair of downy woodpeckers, which regularly come to my nectar feeder. I purchased a new nectar feeder, which has a wrap around perch instead of individual perches at each nectar port. I think it makes it easier for the woodpeckers to grab and drink nectar from it. I also have a red-bellied woodpecker, which sometimes visits the nectar feeder. If birds had teeth, I would say the woodpeckers had a sweet tooth. Since they don’t, I will say they have a sweet tongue.

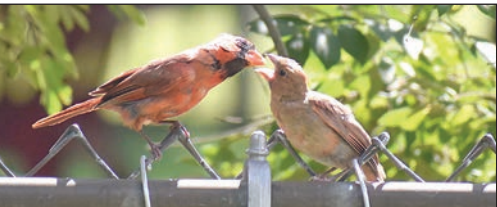
The red-bellied woodpecker also likes the orange half I put out for the Baltimore orioles. Between the hummingbirds and the woodpeckers, I boil up sugar water daily. I mix ¼ cup sugar to 1 cup water.

The nectar feeder also has a moat, which helps keep ants out. I put water in the moat to deter the ants and find the small birds like chickadees and titmice drink from it.

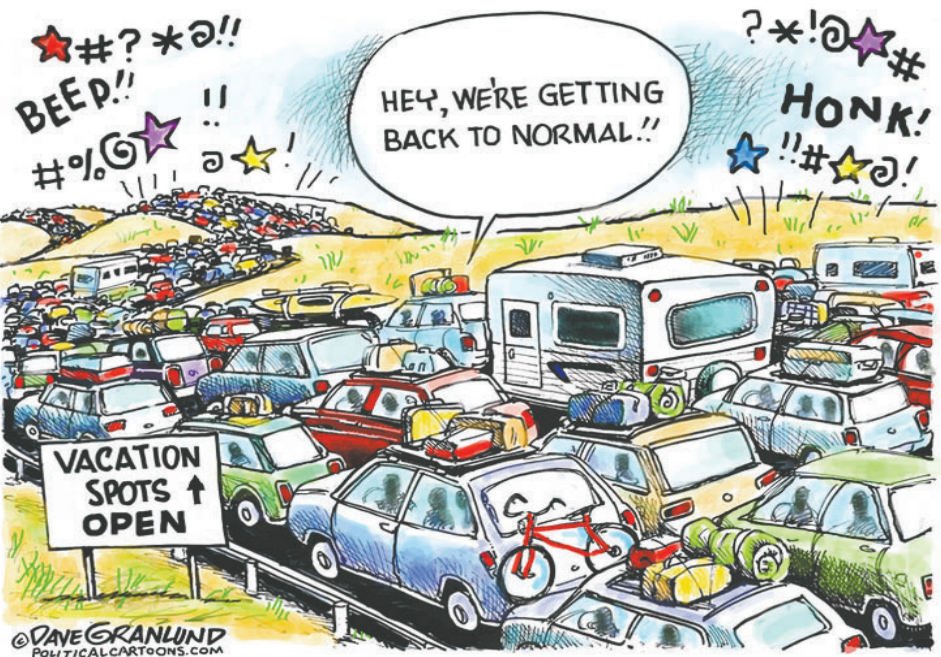
Other birds

I continue to have tufted titmice, a few tree sparrows, catbirds, a pair of cardinals, blue jays, grackles, and black-capped chickadees. I have a tray feeder, which I fill every morning with black oil sunflower seeds. I don’t put in a large amount of seeds so there will be no seeds left when the bears prowl about in the evening and night. The squirrels make sure there is nothing left for the bears. I no longer hang suet feeders as the bear walked off with the suet cage. I found it broken about five feet from my hanging pole. The pole has a permanent bend to it, also the work of a bear. It is probably time for me to buy a new one.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



AMERICA OPENS UP



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

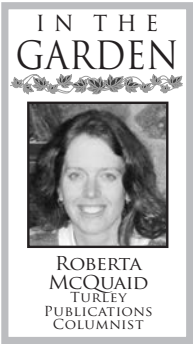
Falsehoods hurting climate change action

We need our state and national leaders to clearly take aggressive action to stop climate change. Unfortunately, not only are corporate interests ruthlessly fighting against the interests of saving life on our planet for their own financial interests, they are spreading outrageous falsehoods to confuse the issues that need to be addressed. For example, in the town of Shutesbury, there have been several letters from those who have financial interests in a project to destroy acres and acres of privately owned forests to place fields of solar energy. While we very much need to replace nuclear and fossil fuels with clean renewable energy like solar, PV panels need to be placed on roofs, parking lots, and already vacant lots. We desperately need to protect forests from commercial logging for any reason. We are losing forests at alarming rates. When clean energy projects replace forests, we completely remove the many benefits that the clean energy could provide. Responsible solar companies do not clear forests for their renewable energy. Responsible companies to not manipulate data to pretend and convince officials that they are taking down forests to benefit us. Outrageous falsehoods are also being spread by the logging and woody biomass industries offering itself as a solution to the climate crisis. Those who would profit

from woody biomass or biochar are successfully lobbying governmental agencies and officials with manipulated data demanding that biomass become considered renewable and therefore subject to financial benefits. It takes decades for a forest to regrow to achieve the amount of carbon sequestration and biodiversity that intact and wild forests provide. In a time of climate emergency and biodiversity loss, we need wild, intact forests to save future generations from disaster. Forests are critical for life on our planet. Wild forests contain numerous ecosystems which are homes to diverse species in their rich soils, undergrowth, leaves, bark, trunks, branches and more. Forests are necessary for the water cycle, weather, clean water, clean air, pure soils and more. Exploiting and excavating our forests for the products that feed economic gain for the few, sacrifices life on our planet. It is time for the wellbeing of life on Earth to become the primary focus of our leaders. If public wellbeing became the primary focus, instead of financial growth, satisfying jobs that help the world could be developed. We would be able to save our planet for future generations and at the same time, provide beneficial lifestyles that would work for everyone, not just the top 1%. Miriam Kurland Goshen

Early June spotlights specimen perennials

The crazy heat we had for nearly two weeks straight pushed a lot of June perennials ahead. Then, the cold rain came and has them in a holding pattern. As I write, my peonies are budded up and I am crossing my fingers that they will bloom for my early June birthday. Read on to learn about peonies and two other plants known as specimen perennials. The word “specimen” has its own definition in horticultural terms. Specimen plants are special, prized for their ability to can stand alone in a border or foundation planting. They don’t need to be planted in a group of similar or differing plants to look their best. Simply put, one is enough! These types of plants are also known to be extremely hardy and long-lived. Nineteenth century gardeners must have certainly been aware of these attributes. The patterned beds in the Salem Towne garden at Old Sturbridge Village highlight three specimen perennials that bloom in June: Gas plant, baptisia and peony. Gas plant (Dictamnus albus) is probably the least known of the three. Stems are deep green and stiff, and even at close to three



feet do not require staking. White flowers are borne on terminal spikes and are unique in that two of their five petals bend down to show-off stamens that curve skyward. The common name for this plant comes from the volatile oil that is given off by the flowers and in its seed pods, and can theoretically be ignited on a calm evening. In fact, William Prince’s catalog of 1831 notes that “this plant exhales inflammable gas!” I have also learned first hand that the seed pod causes “photodermatitis.” Exercise caution when working close to this plant or you too may end up with a star shaped burn on your skin! Gas plant is tough to propagate. It is rarely successful when divided, and seeds need to be stratified before being sown. Then they may take a good year or more to germinate and another couple of years for the plants to get to size. Baptisia (B. australis), commonly known as false indigo, is another specimen that shines in June. The plant is reminiscent of lupine and suggests a family rela-

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ISSN NO. 0747-2471  
**Country Journal**  
The Country Journal (USPS 483-550) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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OPINION

HILLTOWN HISTORY

Camping Kick Off

By Deborah Daniels

Will you be sending the kids to a camp this summer? A lot depends on your own experience with camping, doesn't it? There was a time when for the sake of adult sanity, attending a summer camp was your destiny. Girl and boy scout camps were the way to teach kids values and a few survival skills.

At Norwich Lake there was a rich tradition of camping, with a Girl Scout Camp, Sandy Brook, and a YMCA camp on the Lake since 1896, as well as a third camp for Jewish kids. There was also a ski plane, privately owned, that caused great excitement when it came time to land on the Lake. It was not unusual for the Lake to be filled with kids enjoying water activities from sunup to sundown and growing gills. How the campers kept to the camp they initially enrolled in is a mystery, only the counselors could explain — The temptation to trade miscreant campers was strong! Only the YMCA maintains a day camp on Lake Norwich now. The heyday for traditional sleepover camps at Lake Norwich was in the 1950s and 1960s. Here's to reminiscing about the camping kid getaway.

Camps were fashioned on a military model in the early days. Regimental life was recreated at camp where you slept in bunk beds in rough cabins and ate in a mess hall. You woke to reveille played on the bugle, made your bed and scampered to be seated at long tables in the mess hall. Here you learned how to ask for a no-thank-you portion politely, as yuck did not go over well with the lunch ladies. Afterwards all the leftovers were scraped into one big plate. What did they do with that? Word on the ground was that it was collected by the pig farmers. There was always a round of singing "give me some beans and bacon, and lots of caribou, oh I don't care for truffles or caviar or ham. It's the food I ate at Girl Scout Camp that made me what I am!" before eating. Interesting the way they brainwashed kids. Then it was outside around the flagpole to raise the flag and recite the pledge of allegiance. If you were in a scouting camp, you would also recite a virtuous Scouting promise that you were expected to live up to. Oh, the pressure to behave yourself was real. But it worked, didn't it?

Then the real fun began with swim lessons, remember those rubber bathing

caps? And the horror of being placed in the guppy and minnow class for beginners. But hey, guppies had more fun than the trout swimmers. Next there might be canoeing, diving, or sailing lessons followed by a scavenger hunt, nature hike or craft making class. Those popsicle stick pencil holders and braided belts and gimp weaving key chains were real booty to bring home. After lunch was quiet time when you were expected to write a letter home or to rest. Mostly this was time to get to know your bunk mates, you know "make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold." This amounted to short sheeting a new friend's bed, hiding away important items of clothing from them, or leaving them a secret note under their pillow.

Best of all was the time given for free swimming. What else was summer about, but the complete weightlessness of cooling off in a lake? Free floating in water, no gravity holding you back! Oh, the glee of cannonballing off the dock into the pond. For many kids, the fear of holding your breath under water was very challenging. However, watching fellow campers splashing about and having fun in the water was a potent force to get you to conquer that fear in a hurry. Then there were classes in first aid, map making and fire building. Do you remember laying the wood to make a fire in a log cabin formation or teepee formation? You were well grounded in the fundamentals of camp life, straight out of Robinson Crusoe.

Camp life required performing chores such as sweeping and tidying the cabin, clearing trails of debris, collecting firewood, organizing the paddles and life vests, setting and clearing the table for meals. Somehow tackling these jobs was effortless given that you were among a group of like workers. There was rivalry between cabins. You gave your best at rope pulls, volleyball games, relay races on land and water, and even singing the loudest at songfest. The positive aspects of competition were emphasized, and everyone was included.

As to that feeling of homesickness, well it happened. There was that feeling of abandonment after drop off. There you were among a sea of strangers with a backpack full of camping gear, flashlight, bug spray, maybe a cooking mess kit and your bathing suit and towel. What now? Well lucky for you the kid next to you pulled out her flashlight and made



The mess hall at the YMCA camp on Lake Norwich taken in the 1950s.  
Submitted photos by Deborah Daniels



A ski-plane on Lake Norwich

shadow puppets on the wall and before long you were sharing vital secrets only camp mates share. Camaraderie 101.

After supper there might be a songfest, or a talent show or a play you had to rehearse for. They kept you busy in these camps. Having a bonfire and making s'mores was always a highlight followed by star gazing! One evening would be devoted to telling ghost stories by the counselors. They were scary alright, but the outhouses were scarier. That nighttime trip to the outhouse really gave you the shaking willies. No one did that trip



Camp Sandy Brook Girl Scout camp located on Lake Norwich.



The Y Camp at Lake Norwich in Huntington.

alone! And another sign of true grit was conquering your fear of showering in a cement floored communal shower room. That was how you did clean at camp! We survived.

Leaving day at camp was a sad affair, but autograph books were rampant and the notion of being able to write to your new friend was comforting. "D liver D letter D sooner D better" was written on one Camp Sandy Brook camper's autograph hound. Nothing like the written word to keep you connected. Whatever you're looking for in a summer camp today, diversity is key to developing resilience. Go for the mixed mess of experiences, your camper will love it. Go gaze at the stars tonight.

*Do you have a memory or historical curiosity from the Hilltowns that you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send your story and photos to countryjournal@turley.com.*

GARDEN

tion to other legumes. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes that emerge in mid-month. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, one plant is certainly enough per grouping. The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually tiny and take a couple of seasons to establish. Site false indigo in full sun or partial shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised. Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

My favorite specimen of all is saved for discussion last: the peony. Perhaps I am biased because I grew up with a division of my Babci's (Grandmother's) plant in my childhood garden. Frilly and bubblegum pink, this flower was always cut and put in a vase just in time for my birthday! The variety we had was likely 'Monsieur Jules Elie' introduced in 1888, and available in nearby New York in 1917. 'Festiva Maxima' is the white splashed red flowered variety grown at

the Towne garden as well as in my home landscape these days, alongside a division of Babci's plant.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day for your peony. If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless staking makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bamboo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening

as you go. If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural.

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis. Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost. If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well.

Plant specimen perennials in your landscape for years of enjoyment.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*



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from page 4



## CHESTER

# Residents turnout for Memorial Day observance

By Peter Spotts

CHESTER — Threatening clouds didn’t rain on the Memorial Day Parade, or ceremony, as dozens of residents turned out to pay their respects on Monday, May 31.

Middlefield Road was packed with adults and children alike for this year’s ceremony, which featured a variety of songs and observances to honor those who have given all in the defense of freedom.

“We all sacrificed this past year or so, some more than others, and loss was a common denominator. Loss and sacrifice are the words to remember for this day,” said Selectman Barbara Huntoon. “We’re here today for those service members who have given the ultimate sacrifice for their fellow Americans through the years.”

Master of Ceremonies Carl Baldasaro read the names of Purple Heart and Brozne Star recipients in town

to give them the recognition they deserve for their actions. Purple Heart recipients include Aldo Bizzazero, Damon Bazzeghin, and Nicholas Dalesandro. Bronze Star recipients included Douglas Besancon and Edward Easton.

“Let us remember the sacrifices that were made for the freedom we enjoy,” Baldasaro said.

Keynote speaker Steve Salvini shared his story of Besancon in honor of his passing earlier this year, Salvini said Besancon was also known as “the town drunk,” long time janitor at Town Hall and operator at the Transfer Station. Salvini said he didn’t find out Besancon was a bronze star recipient until he visited his apartment one day and saw the commendation on the cherished military papers he kept in a briefcase.

“The Bronze Star is not a participation award given freely,” Salvini said. “He never spoke of it, never mentioned it, but I decided then and there his name should be read before Town Hall.”

Salvini ended his remarks emphasizing while it’s important to remember those who have fallen in service, to remember those who served and continue to fight their battles to survive here at home.

“We must include him, and so many like him, in our remembrance today,” he said.

The ceremony featured several songs and opportunities for the town’s youth to be involved in the observances. Huntoon led the assembled crowd in the singing of the National Anthem, and everyone sang along to “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America.”

Boy Scouts Troop 120 members Jonah Shirley and James Von Deck placed the honorary wreaths at the town memorials across the street from Town Hall, after which scout Jackson Harding Played “Taps.” The gun salute was performed by Susan Volrath of the United States Army Reserve and Michael Mazaik of the United States Marine

Corps.

Following the ceremony at Town Hall, town officials joined the Honor Guard, Boy Scouts, veterans, members of the Police and Fire Department, and residents to march down Main Street and Maple Street to Route 20, proceeding to the Chester Village Factory Ceremony for the final tribute to the fallen.

At the cemetery, the gun salute and “Taps” were performed again and Evelynnn, Gwendolynn, and Vivienn Herr performed “Amazing Grace.”

Huntoon, who was participating in her final Memorial Day ceremony as a Selectman, appreciates everyone who took the time to attend Monday’s ceremony and also wanted to extend a special thank you to the ladies who have worked hard the past three weeks to organize the event — Janice Brown, Kathy Engwer, and Jessica Sakaske.

“We pulled this together about three weeks ago,” she said. “This was great. Thank you to everyone who showed up.”

## Transfer Station permits expire June 30

CHESTER — Annual transfer Station permits will expire on Wednesday, June 30.

New permits are available now for purchase. Recycling is free with a permit.

Please call the Board of Health with any questions at 413-354-7781.

## Annual association meeting to be held June 13

CHESTER — The Chester Hill Association will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, at 2 p.m. on the lawn of the Congregational Church, 343 Skyline Trail.

In case of inclement weather, it will be moved inside. A recap of the year’s activities as well as plans for the coming year will be discussed. The “Citizen of the Year” will be awarded to a deserving resident. All are invited to attend as we welcome input and new ideas.

## FUND

from page 1

said. “We put the 82 grand in [to the account]. The people took a hit last year because of it...that rainy day did not come this year because of the steps we took last year. If the school is level funding, then I agree we should also level fund and save the balance for when we really need it, which is not this year.”

Selectman Richard Holzman proposed a compromise — the town could use 50% of the account’s balance and save 50% for a future year. This proposal garnered the support of Baldasaro and

Finance Committee Member Bob Daley.

However, Finance Committee members Jonathan Glionna and Jessica Sakaske supported the lower amount.

“My view was we should use the \$23,000, the lower amount, and we should use it to just level fund the education line item,” Glionna said.

Baldasaro conceded majority rules and the Finance Committee should proceed preparing the fiscal 2022 budget to use \$23,325 to level fund the Gateway assessment increase.

## GOSHEN

## CHIEF

from page 1

been working with Cam for months to prepare him for the transition, hoping the Selectboard was going to choose him.”

Labrie wholeheartedly agrees with the board’s choice and said Lacey is the best option to replace her. Lacey was the chair of the Fire Departments Brush Truck committee, which worked together to put together specifications for replacing the towns new brush truck.

In regard to the transition of the position, Labrie believes it’ll go well as she has already been training him and is now taking him to accompany her on inspections. She’s also been mentoring Lacey on other Fire Chief related duties for the Department.

“The Goshen Fire Department has a very skilled and dedicated group of 25 volunteers and I know that Cam will do an amazing job leading them,” Labrie said.

Another person who can attest to Lacey’s skill for the job is Captain Neveu. Neveu said she’s known Lacey for over 20

years and she was eager to tell the board all the qualities he possess to become Fire Chief, these qualities can be outlined in many ways but in one way specifically includes a recent article in “Fire Rescue” magazine, which outlined the qualities of a good Fire Chief.

Neveu mentioned a few of those qualities like the desire to serve your community, having a strong support network, and having the trust of your peers; Neveu said that Lacey has all three of these qualities.

“Cameron is always there. He shows up calm, prepared and eager to share his knowledge about the incident and how best to handle it,” Neveu said. “Cam has the support of all of the remaining officers on the department, in fact, we wrote a letter of recommendation signed by all. He is incredibly knowledgeable with every piece of equipment and apparatus in the station.”

Additionally, as the truck trainman officer, Lacey has made positive changes to the departments Standard Operating

Procedures for response. These were safety improvements that Neveu feels are vital in the volunteer fire service and helped to make the department’s response to emergencies safer, which is crucial.

Neveu said she greatly appreciates what Lacey has already done and brought to the table. She says that Lacey is an honest and hardworking individual who’s ready to make the step to Chief, continuing that Lacey has earned the respect of each and every member of the department and demonstrates the commitment and dedication to advance to Fire Chief.

Lacey said he’s thrilled to accept the position and he’s even more excited to take the next step in his dedication to the Goshen Fire Department and the town of Goshen. Lacey has been a volunteer firefighter with the town since 2012. He said after talking to the firefighters in the department he saw that they were all very supportive of him running for Chief, along with his family.

“My wife Jillian told me I should go for it, what would I have to lose? I’m thankful for the Selectboard in even noticing me as a good candidate and further as appointing me for the position,” Lacey said. “I look forward to bettering myself with what comes with this position and learning a lot of new obstacles that come with the job as well.”

As a last word of praise for the new Fire Chief, Neveu said on a personal note Lacey is the type of guy people could call in the middle of the night if their car breaks down or they’re stuck in a snowbank during a blizzard, and he would show up immediately without hesitation. He is someone the people of Goshen can count on, as a Fire Chief or citizen.

The Selectboard and the Fire Department welcome Lacey as Fire Chief with open arms and residents can look forward to his official start on Monday, June 21.

## WORTHINGTON

## COMPLAINT

from page 1

“I found the woman to be unreasonable and combative when I asked why we’re parking 50 feet away from the dumpster,” Drawe said. “The response was if I needed an answer, I should get ahold of the Selectman, and that’s how I can find out what’s going on. I then was harassed the entire time I was dealing with my trash.”

Selectmen Steve Smith and Charley Rose explained the town had implemented the measures to have people carry their garbage to the trash compactor to comply with COVID-19 safety recommendations during the early onset of the pandemic last year.

“We went through a period last spring when the COVID kind of first hit and we were deeply concerned about distancing,” Rose said.

“We also had cars backed out onto [Route] 112. People could not get into the dump and get rid of their trash fast enough,” added Selectman Amy Wang.

The bigger issue to deal with was Drawe’s complaint about how she was treated when inquiring about the setup.

“I am a member of the town; I care about the town. I came to the dump. I asked a simple question. I was not explained anything,” she said. “I was treated nothing but combative, and I was

told that this was the only way I could find out my answer was to sit through this meeting...why is it okay to be treated that way?”

“Obviously, it’s not,” Rose said. “There’s two sides to every story... We’re willing to address it, give us a chance here.”

Wang said she was unaware of the incident before the meeting and has not spoken to Asher about the issue. The board told Drawe they apologize if she was treated rudely and they’re willing to address the issue.

“If I behaved like that at my job, I would be fired. It’s not acceptable,”

Drawe said. “You can tell me you’re going to address it, awesome. I guess the next time I go to the dump I’ll videotape it so that you can see both sides.”

“I’m a little put off by your approach to us tonight. We’re willing to deal with this, but I just don’t like the way you’re dealing with us, frankly,” Smith replied.

Rose told Drawe they’re willing to revisit the current policies on where people can park at the Transfer Station and Wang apologized again on behalf of the board.

“We will speak to Sue and we’re sorry that you felt so disrespected, and you were so disrespected,” she said.



WILLIAMSBURG

Town honors its veterans on Memorial Day

By Shelby Macri

WILLIAMSBURG — Residents assembled at Veteran’s Memorial Park between noon and 1 p.m. to honor the town’s fallen heroes for Memorial Day on Monday, May 31.

The town began observances at 8:30 a.m., with volunteers visiting the town cemeteries to place flags besides veteran’s graves to honor those who have been lost. While the parade members gathered at the Fire Station, more people showed up to the park and set up their own chairs in groups of two or three, and although the mask mandate was lifted there were still people who covered up and socially distanced during the ceremony. Memorial Park’s location in front of the Anne T. Dunphy School beside the school’s exit allowed people to gather on the park greens and on the sidewalk across the street.

“It’s really great that we were able to gather here today after a year and quite a few months,” Selectman Dave Mathers said. “I really appreciate the crowd it’s good to be here with more people.”

In front of the memorial inscribed with the names of town residents who died during their service to their country were seated the day’s speakers including Father Richard Bondi, who read the Invocation, Reverend Worth Noyes reading the benediction, and guest speaker retired USAR Master Sergeant Mark Frost. Also seated with the speakers were American Legion Commander Ned Jalbert, Master of Ceremonies, Director of Veteran’s Services Steve Connor, Board of Selectmen Chair William Sayre, Selectman Denise Banister and Mathers. They had a front row seat to the flag being lowered to half-staff and the wreath placed at the center of the memorial.

The first to speak was Connor, who called the ceremony to order and gave some background information on the holiday’s history, like the fact that it was originally referred to as Decoration Day. Many communities observed Decoration Day after the Civil War, where there were more than 620,000 military deaths. May 30, 1868 was the day chosen to decorate the graves of union troops across the nation, now Memorial Day is a nationally recognized day of remembrance to honor all those who have died or served the United States.

The Memorial Day Ceremony has a few traditions including having girl scouts and boy scouts lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, lower the flag to half-staff, and the placing of the wreath. Jennifer Wade and Josh Blais volunteered to lower the flags and Megan Cone and Kelsey Chandler returned for their traditional performance of “The Star-Spangled Banners.” Professional Folk Singer Louise Mosrie sang a song to close out the ceremony. The American Legion Post 236 posted the colors while standing and performed the rifle salute before the playing of “Taps” by which Russ Richardson.

Sayre gave the welcome and shared that he had been thinking of what to say since the day before, so he did some research.

“I started to think, how many wars are really talking about here, how many continents, how long have they been going on, so I looked it up,” Sayre said. “To my surprise there are or have been 93 in total, it’s quite a lot. And the list itself is quite interactive.”

He went on to mention many different countries and wars the nation has fought in from the American Revolutionary War in 1775, to the American Civil War, Vietnam War, ending with the American intervention in Libya in 2015.

Sayre concluded his thoughts noting while the people know the nation fights wars, it’s evident that not everybody knows the extent of the effect war has had on the nation and people’s history.

Connor asked ceremony attendees to take a minute out of the day to really sit and think about those



Veteran’s Memorial Park was adorned with flags for Memorial Day, honoring the town’s fallen veterans.  
*Photos by Shelby Macri*



Wreaths were placed in front of the town war memorials.

who have fought, are fighting, and lost their lives for America. Connor asked that people take a minute to be in silence at 3 p.m., as this time is dedicated to remembering those who’ve been lost.

Many people went into making this event and ceremony happen, including the auxiliary members, American Legion members, volunteers, the Police Department, and the Fire Department, which brought three trucks for the parade and honked them as they were parking for the parade.



The American Legion Post 236 Post presented the Colors during the ceremony.



Pictured from back left, Father Richard Bondi, Master Sergeant Mark Frost, Ned Jalbert, Steve Connor, and David Mathers cross their arms and salute the flag during the playing of “Taps.”

CRUISER

“Charlene [Nardi] told me that over the winter the vehicle was totaled during an ice storm,” Town Administrator Nicholas Caccamo said. “I believe the Police Chief [Denise Wickland] will be at Town Meeting to speak about [the new purchase].”

The town is also looking to upgrade its town server for \$19,734. Article 15 will also ask voters to approve \$3,500 to install and configure multi-factor authentication to protect administrative accounts with access to town data.

Article 17 asks the town to approve \$12,500 to replace the walkway at the North Street entrance. The Highway Department also needs a repair of the overhead garage doors at the Highway Garage for \$20,792.

“From what I can gather, the doors are from 1986 and as a result they don’t seal properly leading to heat

loss,” said Caccamo.

There are two matching grant items on the warrant for the Fire Department. The first is \$20,500 for the town’s match to an Assistance Fire Grant to purchase and equip a pumper truck and the second is \$2,500 to match an Assistance Fire Grant to purchase a fill station.

There are also two bylaw amendments proposed by the Planning Board to end the warrant. Article 21 is amending the Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation requirements and Article 22 is changing the Accessory Apartments bylaw to allow for detached structures.

“It’s a lot of changes for some pretty minor updates. This is not a major overhaul,” Planning Board Chair Amy Bisbee said.

For the town operating budget, the town has kept the

budget as level funded as possible with increases limited wherever possible; the one area that does go up each year is the annual cost of living increase.

“I think the only increase is the potential cost of living increase,” Caccamo said. “With regard to new spending, this appears to be pretty level funded from previous budgets.”

Annual Town Meeting will begin at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 7. The meeting will take place at the playground behind the Anne T. Dunphy School. Check-in will begin at 4:30 p.m. Please arrive early so the meeting can start promptly at 5 p.m. Attendees will be asked to wear masks. For a full copy of the warrant, visit [burgoy.org](http://burgoy.org). Any questions may be directed to the Town Administrator at 413-268-8418 or the Town Clerk at 413-268-8402.

from page 1



★ REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED ★



Carl Baldasaro was the Master of Ceremonies for Chester's Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 31.



Selectman Barbara Huntoon sings the Star Spangled Banner during her final Memorial Day as a Selectman.



Jackson Harding performs "Taps."



Gage Laurie reads the Gettysburg Address during the ceremony.



Evelynn, Gwendolynn, and Vivienn Herr perform "Amazing Grace."



Steve Salvini gives the keynote address during the Memorial Day Ceremony outside Town Hall. Pictured, from left, are Pastor Dan Herr, Pastor Susan Borsella, Carl Baldasaro, Salvini, Selectman Barbara Huntoon and Selectman Richard Holzman.

Photos by Peter Spotts

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Susan Volrath from the United States Army Reserve and Michael Mazaik of the United States Marine Corps perform the customary gun salute.



Jonah Shirley and James Von Deck of Boy Scout Troop 120 placed wreaths at the town memorials.



Boy Scout Troop 120 ensures the town war memorials were adorned with fresh wreaths on Memorial Day.



Selectmen Barbara Huntoon and Richard Holzman lead the parade marchers following the veterans.



The Color Guard leads the parade to Route 20 followed by a car carrying town veterans. Carrying the colors, from left, are Tom Huntoon, Brian Forgue, Melvin Hook, and Larry Olson.



The ceremony concluded at the Chester Village Factory Cemetery with the benediction, gun salute, and "Taps."



The parade proceeded down Route 20 to the Chester Village Factory Cemetery.

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WESTHAMPTON

MOSQUITO

mends that the town opt out of the aerial mosquito spraying EEE. Instead of spraying, the BOH suggests the education route to inform people on ways to reduce mosquito breeding grounds at home and protect themselves from mosquitos and their bites.

Armenti said the spray used for the EEE pollutes the land and water in town; it's also not effective in controlling mosquitos causing needless pollution. Additionally, when Selectboard Chair Phil Dowling asked if EEE was a cause for concern, Armenti said there aren't any recorded cases from town as far as she could find.

Selectboard member Teri Anderson said if the town opts out, they must submit an alternative option, which Armenti said will be educating the public and possibly working with schools and media outlets to help with outreach on the subject.

Armenti also recommended checking coverts and watersheds, as well as looking into other biological control methods if they're determined to not hurt the environment. Others attending the virtual meeting agreed that they'd like to opt out of the spraying. Barbara Pelissier said the aerial spray used for mosquitos can harm and kill dragonflies, which eat mosquitos, making the spraying counterproductive. The Selectboard voted unanimously to opt out of the EEE mosquito spraying.

Regarding the re-opening plan for the town, Armenti asked the Selectboard for their recommendations or suggestions on what the BOH and other boards and commissions should do, this led to a discussion of who should be making recommendations to whom.

"We've been following the Board of Health's recommendations with all this since the beginning," Dowling said. "I don't think we should just switch it now."

In response, Armenti said the state doesn't back the BOH and said they couldn't make recommendations because of that. Due to the state not backing the BOH, they could make a suggestion to the Selectboard, who doesn't have to take that suggestion, leaving the BOH hanging in the wind. Dowling assured Armenti that the Selectbaord wouldn't just disregard a suggestion made by the BOH and if the decided not to follow a suggestion, the Selectboard would approach and work with the BOH first on an alternative. After both boards agreed to maintain the status quo, regardless of state support, Armenti told the Selectboard a few updates the BOH is working on concerning wearing masks inside.

One update includes the library, which will still require people vaccinated or not to wear their masks while inside. Library staff said they felt uncomfortable having people not wear-

ing masks inside the library because it's a small space and there are often children inside for activities or finding books.

In regard to case numbers with the lifting of mask mandates, Armenti shared that the BOH is tracking cases number to monitor if there's a surge. She said the board is hoping that after two weeks of having the no mask mandate there will be no surge or spike in cases, although Armenti said the BOH recommends that students still wear masks inside school.

While the lifted restrictions apply to outdoor areas, students will be required to wear a mask with inside the building while also continuing to socially distance. Armenti said the mask and distancing mandates are still needed for indoor areas, especially if more and more people are removing their masks outside. These indoor restrictions will be upheld until the BOH makes a different recommendation.

Agricultural Commission Chair Arthur Clapp brought up concerns regarding public safety on the roads. Clapp mentioned, from personal experience, when tractors and other driven farming equipment are on the roads other cars will get aggravated and pass the farming equipment due to the equipment's slow speed. This is cause for concern as there are curved and windy roads that could be dangerous for cars to pass on and the equipment is being used in areas that are heavily settled with farmland, so there is an increased amount of equipment on the roads.

Clapp asked the Selectboard if there was a way to pay for street signs that notify traffic cars there will be tractors and other farming equipment on the busier roads. Additionally, Clapp investigated right to farm signs to remind traffic cars that Westhampton is a right to farm town and there will be farming equipment on the roads often; these right to farm signs are quoted at about \$45 each and they'd need nine signs.

Clapp suggested putting the right to farm signs and the equipment signs on already existing posts to save on costs a bit. This will help as the machinery signs are quoted at \$38.50 each and make a new post for each sign will be more expensive. While Clapp said the signage should be done as soon as possible, he also mentioned that it should be done when the funds are fully available, so everything is taken care of at once.

Dowling asked if the Massachusetts Department of Transportation would need to be contacted regarding putting up these signs and Clapp said no, the Selectboard has the say in this case. MassDOT is only concerned or involved when the signage has to do with speed limits or bridges. The board decided to approve to put up signs and to use Highway funds of up to \$1,500 for the appropriate signage.

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CJ21TMC



REGION

State Fire Marshal offers summer fire safety tips

State Fire Marshall Peter J. Ostroskey shared a number of fire safety tips to residents recently. “Between the pandemic and the long New England winter, we’re all itching to get outside and enjoy ourselves,” said Ostroskey. “Memorial Day weekend is a good time to prevent fires: tune up the grill; teach teens about gasoline safety; set up safe receptacles for smoking materials; and leave the fireworks to the professionals.”

Grilling safety

Between 2016 and 2020, Massachusetts fire departments responded to 427 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues. These fires caused 15 civilian injuries, six firefighter injuries, and \$4 million in property damage. In 2020 alone, there were 74 grill fires that injured one civilian, one firefighter and caused \$454 million in estimated damages.

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey offered these safety tips for grilling safety:

- Always grill outdoors.
- Place grills 10 feet away from the house and deck railings. Make sure grills are not under eaves or overhanging branches.
- Do not use a gas or charcoal grill on any porch, balcony, or fire escape.
- Gas grills can be used on first floor decks or patios, but only if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or it is at ground level.
- Keep all matches, lighters and lighter fluid away from children.
- Create a circle of safety. Keep children and pets three feet away from grills. Children should never play near grills.

On April 25, 2020, at 3:52 p.m., the Littleton Fire Department was called to a gas grill fire in a one-family home. The homeowner started the grill on the rear deck and a while later noticed flames coming out the bottom. She went over to shut the LP tank off and burned her hands. The fire coming out the back of the grill ignited the exterior wall of the home and caused \$75,000 in damage.

On May 30, 2020, the Lunenburg Fire Department responded to a gas grill fire in a two-family home at 5 p.m. The grill was on a patio and ignited the exterior wall of the home causing \$115,000 in damages. It spread to a nearby home causing another \$1,000 in estimated damage. Smoke alarms alerted the residents.

On Aug. 5, 2020, at 8:21 p.m., the Revere Fire Department responded to a gas grill fire in a two-family home. The grill was on a third-floor porch and ignited the wall, causing \$110,000 in damage. Smoke alarms operated but the home did not have fire sprinklers.

On Sept. 13, 2020, the Plymouth Fire Department responded to a grill fire on the back deck of a single-family home. Working smoke alarms alerted the residents and no one was injured at this fire. The home had no fire sprinklers and damages were estimated at \$110,000.

Charcoal grills

Propane is the most common grilling fuel, but many people use charcoal grills. Here are some charcoal grill safety tips:

- Only use charcoal starter fluid. Do not use gasoline or kerosene to start a fire in a grill.
- Never add lighter fluid to burning briquettes or hot coals. Doing so may cause a flash fire and result in serious burn injuries.
- Charcoal briquettes give off carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. Always use charcoal grills outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Never use charcoal grills indoors.
- For proper disposal of grill ashes, allow the coals to burn out completely and then cool for 48 hours before disposal.
- If you must dispose of ashes before they are completely cooled, thoroughly soak them in water before putting them in a metal container.

Gasoline and lawnmowers

“Is your teenager finally old enough to mow the lawn? Then be sure to discuss gasoline safety at the same time; talk about why it is important to let the engine cool before refueling,” Ostroskey said. Gasoline vapors are highly flammable and refueling a hot motor can ignite them. Gasoline spilled onto clothing can give off vapors until completely dry and be ignited by any heat source. Gasoline vapors can travel a long distance to find an ignition source, which is why gasoline cannot be stored inside the house. In the past five years (2016-2020), 338 lawn mower fires caused one civilian death, three civilian injuries, four fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$1.6 million.

- Store gasoline outside only in approved containers.
- Keep gasoline away from all heat sources, such as smoking materials, pilot lights, campfires, and grills.

- Refuel a cooled lawn mower. Never refill while it is hot.

- Keep hands and feet away from a mower while it is running.

On May 20, 2020, the Charlton Fire Department was called to a riding lawn mower fire. The owner stated that he had just given it a tune up and was mowing the lawn when he saw flames coming out from under the hood.

On May 30, 2020, at 7:35 p.m., the Leominster Fire Department responded to a lawn mower fire in a back yard. The lawn mower backfired as it was being shut down and caught fire.

On July 24, 2020, at 12:51 p.m., the Northbridge Fire Department responded to a garden tractor fire in a backyard. The gas tank had recently been filled and the fire started shortly after starting.

Gasoline and outdoor fires

“Never use gasoline to start a campfire or add it to any indoor or outdoor fire,” said Ostroskey. “We have had so many injuries this year from people mishandling gasoline and other flammable liquids.” In the past five years (2016 – 2020), Massachusetts hospitals have reported treating 137 people with serious burn injuries from gasoline.

On Friday, July 24, 2020, a 43-year old Lanesborough woman was severely burned over 70% of her body surface area when pouring gasoline onto a campfire.

On Sunday, July 19, 2020, a 39-year old Lawrence woman received burns to multiple parts of her body when someone poured gasoline onto a barbecue.

Smoking safety

Smoking was the leading cause of fire deaths in Massachusetts last year, and there have been many fires this spring from improperly discarded smoking materials on porches and in backyards. These fires can smolder undetected for a long time and when they erupt into flames, they travel fast. If they start on the exterior of the building, these fires can get a strong hold before the interior smoke alarms start to warn anyone of the danger.

“If you allow smoking on your property, provide appropriate receptacles for discarding smoking materials: a deep ashtray, a can with sand or water. Don’t let people toss smoking materials into the mulch, leaves, grass, potted plants or other containers that can catch fire. Don’t let them stub them out on the porch railing or stairs,” said Ostroskey. “Be a responsible smoker. Remember to put it out, all the way, every time.”

On Feb., 2021, at 12:30 a.m., the Milford Fire Department responded to a fire at a single-family home. The fire was started by a cigarette on a rear porch. Two people were injured at this fire. Smoke alarms alerted

the occupants. The home did not have sprinklers and damages were estimated to be \$270,000.

On March 18, 2021, the Carlisle Fire Department was called to a smoking fire in a single-family home. A cigarette ignited a porch rug. Smoke alarms alerted the occupants and no one was injured. There were no fire sprinklers and damages were estimated to be \$110,000.

On April 19, 2020 a fire in two apartment buildings in New Bedford killed two men, ages 40 and 49. It also displaced 40 other residents of two buildings. The fire was started in an alley way by smoking materials that were dropped from an upper floor landing in and igniting trash and debris near a dumpster.

Fireworks fires increase

“The possession and use of all fireworks by private citizens is illegal in Massachusetts,” Ostroskey said. This includes sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers and cherry bombs, and more. “Leave fireworks to the professionals, and enjoy supervised displays,” he said. “It is illegal to purchase fireworks in another state and transport them into or possess them in Massachusetts,” he added. Last year, fires from fireworks increased 180% from 2019.

Around 11 p.m. on June 14, 2020, the Worcester Fire Department responded to a fire in a

three-decker started by illegal fireworks. People were shooting off fireworks in the neighborhood and one landed on and ignited the roof. Eleven people were displaced from their home. Smoke alarms failed to operate and damages were estimated to be \$145,739.

On Monday Aug. 10, 2020, the Orange Fire Department and several surrounding communities responded to a brush fire on Tully Mountain in Orange. It took several days to put out in the rugged terrain amid hot and humid weather. Remnants of fireworks and a campfire were found at the seat of the fire.

On July 20, 2020, at 12:30 p.m., a 43-year old Turners Falls man suffered a serious leg injury from illegal fireworks.

On July 9, 2019, a 4-year old Boston girl grabbed a burning sparkler that someone else was holding and received burns to her left hand.

In the past decade (2011-2020), there have been 941 major fires and explosions involving illegal fireworks in Massachusetts. These incidents resulted in 12 civilian injuries, 42 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$2.1 million.

Burn first aid

- Stop, drop, cover and roll to extinguish a clothing fire.
- Cool a burn. For minor burns, run cool water over the burn immediately.
- Seek emergency medical help immediately for more serious burns. Call 9-1-1.

CHESTERFIELD

SCOUTS' HONOR



Corbin Liimatainen places flags at the graves of veterans in the Chesterfield Cemetery for Memorial Day.



Chesterfield Cub Scout Pack 705 changed the flags prior to Memorial Day activities in Chesterfield. Submitted photos



REGION

Survey says even with vaccine, residents expect a long recovery

SPRINGFIELD — Even with vaccines against COVID-19 becoming accessible to a larger portion of the public, Massachusetts residents are cautious about returning to pre-pandemic activities, according to the latest survey from the Western New England University Polling Institute.

The telephone survey of 415 adults, conducted March 1-31, found that 44% were still very or somewhat worried about contracting COVID-19, down from 64% in the last Polling Institute survey conducted Oct. 22-Nov. 24, 2020. Fifty-four percent said they are not very worried or not at all worried, up from 32 percent in the fall survey.

The current level of worry did not vary significantly based on whether a respondent had received a vaccine to protect against COVID-19. Thirty-four percent of the sample reported having received at least one dose of a vaccine. Among the vaccinated group 45% were still very or somewhat worried about contracting the virus, while 52% said they were not very or not at all worried.

Among adults who said they had not yet received a vaccine, 44% were very or somewhat worried and 54 percent said they were not very or not at all worried. The survey, which has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus six percentage points, also found:

- Sixty percent of adults said they strongly or somewhat support the return of elementary school students to public school classrooms five days a week, which is underway in many schools across the state this week. Twenty-nine percent of respondents said they strongly or somewhat oppose the idea.
- A majority of residents gave the state and Governor Charlie Baker a grade of B or C for the rollout of the vaccination plan so far. Baker’s overall job approval rating fell six points to 62% among all adults compared to the October-November survey, and the approval rating for the governor’s handling of the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic fell five points, to 62%.
- Support remained high for cities and towns requiring masks in public places, with 85% backing the idea, 13% opposed, and two percent undecided. Ninety percent supported requiring masks in public places in the fall survey.
- Among survey respondents who had yet to receive a vaccine, 68% said they would be very or somewhat likely to get the vaccine if it was available to them today, and 29% said they would be very or somewhat unlikely. Among all respondents to the fall 2020 survey, 59% said they would be very or somewhat likely to get the vaccine, while 38 percent said they would be very or somewhat unlikely.
- Perceptions of the safety of engaging in public activities ranging from dining indoors in restaurants to working out in gyms with masks and social distancing shifted slightly in the direction of greater perceived safety, but about half of all adults still view those activities as unsafe.

Tim Vercellotti, director of the Polling Institute and a professor of political science at Western New England University, said the survey results depict a state that may be ready for life to return to some semblance of pre-pandemic activity, but that many adults are cautious about

rushing too quickly to do so.

“More people are willing to get vaccinated, and there is some sense of diminished threat from COVID-19,” Vercellotti said.

“But people still remain worried about contracting the virus, and a significant number believe that the pandemic is far from over.”

When asked how long it would be before daily life could return to the way it was before the pandemic, 21% said “in more than a year,” down eight points from 2020. Eighteen percent said a year, 16% chose seven to 11 months, 18% said four to six months, and 9% said three months or less, with the figures inching slightly in the direction of a shorter duration compared to the fall survey. Eight percent volunteered that their lives would never return to the way they were before the pandemic, compared to three percent in the fall survey.

While the survey found that a majority of adults supported allowing students in kindergarten through fifth grade to return to classrooms five days a week, views varied significantly by gender, race/ethnicity, and age. Sixty-six percent of men and 54% of women strongly or somewhat supported the idea. Sixty-two percent of white respondents strongly or somewhat supported the policy, and 26% were somewhat or strongly opposed. Non-white respondents, which included African-Americans, individuals identifying as Latino or Hispanic, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and people identifying with more than one race, were almost evenly divided about the idea. Forty-seven percent were strongly or somewhat supportive, and 50% said they were strongly or somewhat opposed.

Among adults ages 18 to 39, 58 percent supported giving elementary students the chance to return full time, compared to 70 percent among respondents ages 65 and older.

Thirty-four percent of adults and 37% of registered voters in the sample reported having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and the percentage across groups varied by political party, gender, race/ethnicity, and age. Forty-nine percent of Democrats said they had received at least one dose, compared to 22% of Republicans and 30% of unenrolled voters. Thirty-eight percent of women and 29% of men said they had received at least one dose of a vaccine. Thirty-four percent of white respondents and 25% of non-white respondents said the same.

Not surprisingly, given that the state’s phased introduction of vaccinations has been based in part on age, respondents 65 and older had the highest rate of vaccination, with 69% indicating they had received at least one dose.

Survey respondents overall gave Baker and the state passing grades for their management of the vaccination program, but only 11% gave Baker an A, and only nine% gave the state an A. Thirty-four percent of adults gave Baker a B, 31% a C, 12% a D, and 6% a failing grade. Thirty-five percent of adults gave the state as a whole a B and 35% awarded a C and 6% a failing grade.

Baker and the state received higher marks from survey respondents who had received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and grades were higher as people reported having heard or read more

information about the state’s vaccination program. Among adults who had received at least one dose of a vaccine, Baker received an A from 12% and a B from 42%, while among those who had not yet been vaccinated 11% gave Baker an A and 29% gave him a B.

Among survey respondents who said they had heard or read a lot of information about the vaccination program, 17% gave Baker an A and 36% gave Baker a B. The governor received an A from only 6% and a B from 31% of respondents who reported reading or hearing little or no information about the program.

Vercellotti noted that while Baker’s consistently strong job approval rating has dipped in the latest survey, the results suggest that as people receive the vaccine and as they hear more about the vaccination program, views about Baker seem to become more positive.

“The deterioration in Baker’s job approval rating may be temporary,” Vercellotti said. “A lot depends on his continued management of the vaccination effort and the state’s overall response to COVID.”

The Polling Institute found that slightly higher percentages of adults perceived some public activities as safer than respondents had in the fall 2020 survey. Forty-two percent of respondents to the latest survey said, with masks and social distancing, watching a movie in a movie theater would be very or somewhat safe. Only 31% voiced a similar view in the fall survey.

Views also improved somewhat regarding attending a service in a church, synagogue, mosque or other place of worship with masks and social distancing. Forty-six percent viewed the activity as very or somewhat safe, compared to 39% last fall. Shifts toward perceived greater safety were slightly smaller for three other activities: dining inside a restaurant, working out in a gym or health club, and traveling on an airplane. Across all five activities, however, about half of respondents still viewed them as very or somewhat unsafe.

“Perception of risk for these activities has softened somewhat since our last survey, but a lot of people still view these as potentially dangerous undertakings,” Vercellotti said.

Having received at least one dose of a vaccine did not appear to be related to viewing the public activities as less risky compared to those who had not received a vaccine. In fact, survey respondents who had not been vaccinated were in some cases more likely to view the activities as safe. For example, 45% of vaccinated respondents viewed dining in a restaurant as very or somewhat safe, compared to 55% of adults who had not yet been vaccinated.

Vercellotti said political partisanship, gender, and age might be contributing to the differences as well. Democrats, women, and older adults were more likely to report having been vaccinated than Republicans, men, and younger adults, and Democrats, women, and older adults were also often less likely to view public activities as safe.

“At least at this early stage in the vaccination process, having a vaccine may not determine your assessment of risk of an activity,” Vercellotti said. “Other characteristics, including partisanship, gender, and age, may be more strongly associated

with perceived safety of public activities.”

**Methodology**

The Western New England University Polling Institute conducted a telephone survey using live interviewers March 1-31. Western New England University sponsored and funded the study. The survey sample consists of telephone interviews in English only with 415 adults ages 18 and older drawn from across Massachusetts using random-digit-dialing of landlines and cell phones. The sample yielded 377 adults who said they are registered to vote in Massachusetts. Interviewers at the Polling Institute dialed household telephone numbers, known as “landline numbers,” and cell phone numbers using random samples obtained from Dynamo of Shelton, CT.

In order to draw a representative sample from the landline numbers, interviewers alternated asking for the youngest adult male or the youngest adult female age 18 or older who was home at the time of the call. Interviewers dialing cell phone numbers interviewed the respondent who answered the cell phone after confirming three things: (1) that the respondent was in a safe setting to complete the survey; (2) that the respondent was an adult age 18 or older; and (3) that the respondent was a resident of Massachusetts. The sample of all adults consisted of 138 interviews completed on landlines, 266 interviews completed on cell phones, and an additional 11 questionnaires completed by cell phone respondents who opted to take the survey online instead of over the phone.

The landline, cell phone, and online data were combined and weighted to reflect the adult population of Massachusetts by gender, race, age, education, and county of residence using U.S. Census estimates for Massachusetts. The data also were weighted to adjust for cell phone and landline usage based on state-level estimates for Massachusetts from the National Center for Health Statistics, and political party registration using statewide voter registration figures from the Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The margin of sampling error for a sample of 415 adults is +/- 4.7% at a 95% confidence interval. Taking into account a design effect of 1.9 for the weighting of the sample to estimates for the adult population of Massachusetts, the full margin of sampling error is +/- 6.4 percent (the margin of sampling error of 4.7% multiplied by the square root of the design effect), rounded down to 6% for purposes of this report. Thus, if 62% of adults said they approve of the job that Charlie Baker is doing as governor, one would be 95% sure that the true figure would be between 56% and 68% (62% +/- 6%) had all adults in Massachusetts been interviewed, rather than just a sample.

Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording, or context effects.



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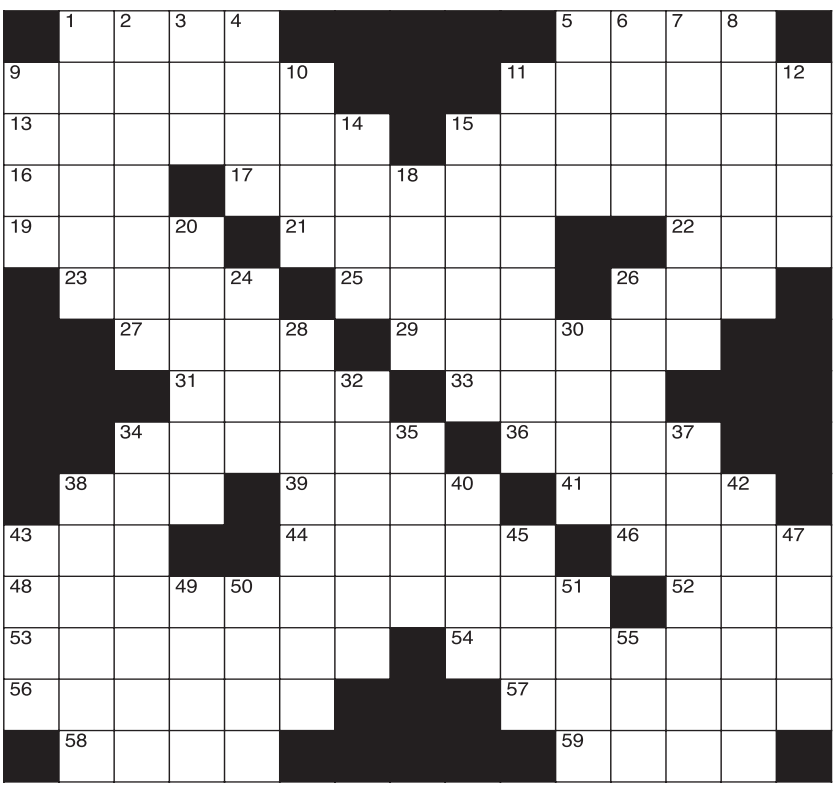
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### CLUES ACROSS

1. Partner to “flows”

5. French industrial city

9. Diagrams

11. Diplomat

13. Hires

15. Hawaiian island

16. Set aflame

17. Very happy

19. Blue dye

21. Small terrier with short legs

22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)

23. Northern pike genus

25. Expression of annoyance

26. Female deer

27. Casella and Kellerman are two

29. Actor’s lines to audience

31. Days (Spanish)

33. Close a person’s eyes

34. Cloaked

36. Comedic actor Rogen

38. It’s all around us

39. Neutralizes alkalis

41. Native people of New Mexico

43. No seats available

44. Famed “Air Music” composer

46. Fit of irritation

48. Psychic phenom-ena

52. Knicks’ first-rounder

53. Seed used in cooking

54. “WandaVision” actress Hahn

56. Samples food

57. In a lucid way

58. Stair part

59. Adieus

### CLUES DOWN

1. Type of moth

2. A Christian sacrament

3. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)

4. Turn away

5. Impersonal

6. Shortly

7. Indigenous Alaskans

8. Subtle difference of meaning

9. Sicilian city

10. Put in harmony

11. Administrative divisions

12. As happily

14. Horse mackerel

15. Muddy or boggy ground

18. Monetary unit of Italy

20. Construction site machine

24. 22

26. Tracts at the mouths of rivers

28. Earnings

30. Insect repellent

32. Runner-up

34. Musician

35. Serious or urgent

37. Esteemed one

38. Where rockers play

40. Work furniture

42. Greek prophetesses

43. Quantitative fact

45. Missing soldiers

47. Minute

49. This (Spanish)

50. Maintain possession of

51. Assault with a knife

55. Holiday text message greeting

# THIS WEEK’S HOROSCOPES

### ARIES

Mar 21/Apr 20

You feel most comfortable when things are organized, Aries. However, flexibility is handy as well, and sometimes things may not be in order as much as you like. Adapting is key.

### CANCER

Jun 22/Jul 22

Many things may come to you more easily than usual, Cancer. Ride this wave of ease that has fallen into your lap. Enjoy the break that comes with it as well.

### LIBRA

Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, don’t focus too much on emotions this week. Instead, put all of your energy into intellectual musings, which will help you complete a project in the days ahead.

### CAPRICORN

Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, this is one of those weeks when you get sidetracked at seemingly every turn, Capricorn. Don’t be too hard on yourself about the delays.

### AQUARIUS

Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, embrace some difficult tasks this week. These projects will make you appreciate the value of hard work and put simpler tasks in perspective.

### PISCES

Feb 19/Mar 20

This is your week to make short work of chores, Pisces. You may be lacking patience, but everything will get done, especially if you ask for help.

### TAURUS

Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, once you get into a groove, you will find that many of your tasks are much easier to manage. Keep plugging and you’ll hit your stride soon enough.

### LEO

Jul 23/Aug 23

You can get far with minimal effort this week, Leo. Simply set your sights on an end goal, and before you know it you will reach that destination.

### VIRGO

Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, check your messages frequently this week, as someone needs to get in touch with you. He or she may have some news that can change your course.

### GEMINI

May 22/Jun 21

Sometimes it may seem like the smallest issue is suddenly a major mountain that you must scale. Change your approach and you’ll soon realize you can handle anything.

### SCORPIO

Oct 24/Nov 22

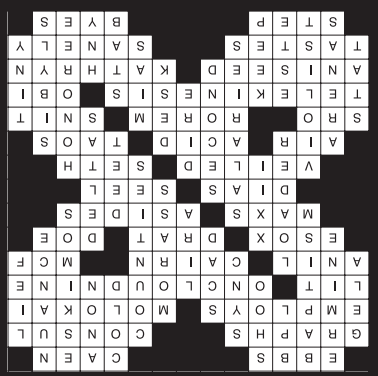
Scorpio, even with the frenzy of activity around you, try not to be overwhelmed by the situation. Your first reaction may be to fly off the handle. Keep it together.

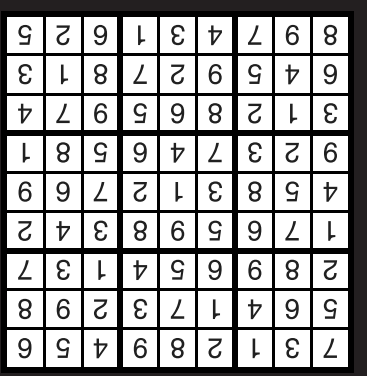
### SAGITTARIUS

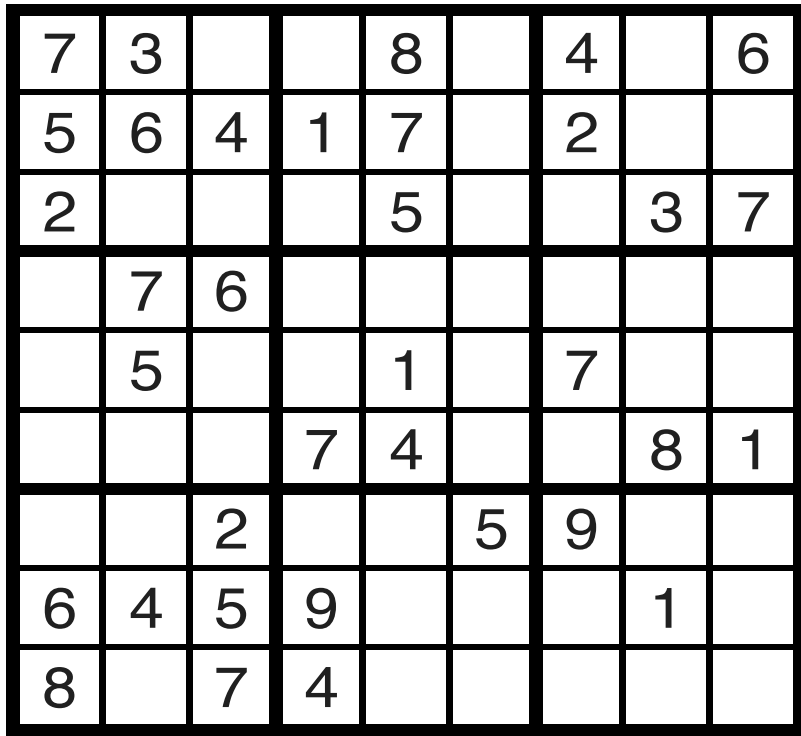
Nov 23/Dec 21

Consider calling up an old friend or a former romantic partner who has the potential to stir up some passion inside of you, Sagittarius. More excitement is on the horizon.

# answers







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OBITUARY

David Earl West, 96



David Earl West, 96 passed away peacefully at Linda Manor surrounded by family on Monday, May 10, 2021. David was born Sept. 20, 1924 at the Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton and was the son of David P. West and Grace A. (Strong) West.

David was raised with his three siblings on Mountain Street in the village of Haydenville. As a boy, he delivered newspapers throughout the village, was a member of the Pro Brush Boy Scout Troop, and attended Sunday School at the Haydenville Congregational Church where he sang in the choir. After graduating from Williamsburg High School, he served in the "Black Panther" 66th Division of the Infantry during World War II. He was selected as a member of the Division Artillery a cappella Chorus and entertained fellow soldiers in England and France.

In 1950, he married Nancy E. Paul, bought land in Williamsburg, and built the home where he and Nancy raised their three daughters and spent 70 wonderful years together. In 1962, Dave opened the West Clothing Center in Florence, a business he owned and operated for over 25 years. He was proud to provide quality products and friendly service and truly enjoyed working with his customers.

In 1967, he purchased the three-story building at the corner of North Main and North Maple Streets in Florence that would house his store until 1986. His "Go West" sign became a landmark in the center of Florence. Dave was a proud veteran. He filled a need in the community and became an ex officio social worker for fellow veterans transitioning from veteran's hospital care when he created rooms to rent on the floors above his store. Dave was a very active member and past president of the Florence Civic and Business Association. In 1986, he co-chaired the committee that published the book, "Florence, Massachusetts History 1895-1985."

Dave was a member of the Williamsburg Historical Society and served as president and co-curator of the Grist Mill Farm Museum that he was instrumental in establishing. Dave was passionate about Williamsburg history this included working to preserve the ancient oak tree and installing a marker to commemorate the first settlers of Williamsburg. His most recent endeavor was creating a committee to publish a book of memories solicited from Williamsburg residents to be part of Williamsburg's 250th anniversary celebration.

As an active charter member of the Williamsburg Lions Club, Dave was honored with the Melvin Jones Award for dedicated service to his community. He was a 70-year member of Williamsburg Grange #225. He was an active member of the First Congregational Church of Williamsburg for over 70 years, serving on the Board of Directors and the Board of Deacons and sharing his rich bass voice as a choir member.

As a member of the Williamsburg High School Alumni Association, Dave was very active in planning the annual Burgy High Reunions; he was also active in the Burgy High Travel Club.

Dave loved classic cars and was happiest when tootling around Williamsburg and Florence in his 1940 Buick Special Eight. He enjoyed traveling, singing, dancing, and visiting with family and friends. He could often be found chatting with people in Florence and Williamsburg, leading his family in a rousing sing-along, and writing letters and memoirs. He especially enjoyed vacationing at York Beach, Maine with his family.

Dave was blessed with a large and loving family; he will be remembered as a very loving husband, father, grandfather and uncle. He will be deeply missed by his daughters Lisa West and her husband Thomas West of Hadley; Pamela Watson of Allen, Texas; and Jeana West of Williamsburg; his grandchildren Lila West of South Hadley, Diana West of Hadley, Timothy Watson and his wife, Megan of Richmond, Virginia; Grace Stanek of Williamsburg, and Alyssa Stanek of Williamsburg; and his extended family including sister-in-law Carol Paul of Florida, Jennifer M. West of Northampton, and Richard T. West and his wife, Diane and their children Tristan, Megan and Stephanie West of Hadley.

Dave was predeceased by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Vernon (Connie) and Kenneth (Barbara); his sister and brother-in-law Phyllis (Ed) Webb; his brother-in-law, Andrew Paul, his nieces, Natalie Ponusky and Janna Anderson; and nephews Neil Webb and Tim West.

He leaves his nieces Nancy (Will) Demarais, Linda West Banks, Kenna (Mike) McMurry and nephews Dick (Lucy) West, Larry (Linda) West, the Reverend Thomas (Becky) West and many grand- and great-grand- nieces and nephews.

Dave's family would like to thank Afrike, Samantha, and Adrienne for their loving and compassionate in-home care, the staff of All About You, the staff of Colley Dickinson VNA and Hospice Care for their support throughout his journey, and the staff at Linda Manor for their wonderful care. Memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Williamsburg or the Highland Ambulance Service.

Calling hours for both David and his wife, Nancy, who passed away Feb. 17, will be held on Friday, June 25, from, 4 to 7 p.m. at The First Congregational Church of Williamsburg, 4 N Main St, Williamsburg, MA.

Their memorial service for both Dave and Nancy will be held on Saturday, June 26 at 2 p.m. in the church. Williamsburg Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

DEATH NOTICE

WEST, DAVID EARL

Died May 10, 2021  
Memorial Service June 26 at 2 p.m.  
First Congregational Church of Williamsburg

Country Journal  
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

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PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR  
QUALIFICATIONS  
TOWN OF RUSSELL  
CONSULTING SERVICES  
BUILDING RE-USE  
PLANNING PROJECT

The Town of Russell invites responses for consulting services to perform a general site assessment and feasibility study of three vacant buildings. The overall goal of this project is to provide a guide for the future redevelopment of these three properties, stabilize the respective neighborhoods where these buildings are located, create jobs and business opportunities, and provide a range of multi-income and multi-generational housing opportunities. Funding for this project is provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the FY 2019 Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development's Block Grant Program.

A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ will be made available on June 3, 2021 until the due date specified below in digital format via email by request at [sortiz@pvpc.org](mailto:sortiz@pvpc.org). A briefing session

and site tour will take place at 155 Highland Ave, Russell, MA on Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 3:30 PM. Parties requesting the RFQ electronically are strongly encouraged to verify that their email request has been received. PVPC is not responsible for any requests that are not received. The Russell Board of Selectmen will be the awarding and contracting authority.

**Completed responses are to be submitted no later than 3:30 PM, Thursday, July 15, 2021 at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street - 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104-3419, Attention: John O'Leary, Senior Planner.**  
06/03/2021

MORTGAGEE'S  
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Mark R. Josselyn to Christopher Chandonett dated November 17, 2016 and recorded with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds, Book 21450, page 188, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 o'clock, AM on the 23rd**

**day of June, 2021 A.D.**, at 155 Main Street, Russell, Massachusetts all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, To wit:

"The land in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

PARCEL ONE Certain real estate situate in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at an iron pin in the north side of the sidewalk on the northerly side of Main Street, said pin being fifty six (56) feet easterly of the monument at the southeasterly corner of land of Angelo Curro, Jr. and Alberta J. Curro and running thence NORTHERLY about forty four (44) feet to a chisel mark in the westerly side of a concrete slab bridge, said mark being above the center of a small brook; thence NORTHWESTERLY on the center of the brook to land formerly of E.D. Parks, now and NORTHERLY supposedly of the Town of Russell by a monument; thence SOUTHERLY on said Town land, about ninety one and 6/10 (91.6) feet to an iron pin at land of Angelo Curro, Jr. and Alberta Curro; thence SOUTHEASTERLY on said Curro land about ninety (90) feet to an iron pin at a corner; thence SOUTHERLY on said Curro land about eighty

three (83) feet to a stone monument at the sidewalk; and thence EASTERLY on the northerly side of Main Street, fifty six (56) feet to the place of beginning. TOGETHER WITH the right to use a 14 (fourteen) foot driveway for purposes of ingress and egress, which driveway is adjacent to the easterly side of these premises.

PARCEL TWO Certain real estate situate in Russell, Hampden County, Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a stone monument in the northerly line of Main Street marking the southeasterly corner of land of Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux and the southwesterly corner of land of Frank Mesick et ux, and running thence NORTHERLY along said Mesick land, about eighty three (83) feet to an iron pin marking an angle in the line between said Curro and Mesick lands; thence WESTERLY along other land of said Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux, nine and 5/10 (9.5) feet to a point which is distant northerly eighty four (84) feet from a point in said northerly line of Main Street which is distant westerly fifteen (15) feet from the stone monument at the place of beginning; thence SOUTHERLY along land of said Angelo Curro, Jr. et ux,

eighty four (84) feet to the aforementioned point in said northerly line of Main Street; and thence EASTERLY along said Main Street, fifteen (15) feet to the stone monument at the place of beginning."

**Terms of sale:** Ten Thousand (\$10,000.00) Dollars required to be paid in cash or certified or bank cashier's check by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash or certified or bank cashier's check within thirty (30) days and the deed transferred contemporaneously. The purchaser shall also pay directly to the auctioneer a premium equal to five percent (5%) of the purchase price. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and recording fees. The purchaser shall be required at the auction to sign a memorandum of terms containing the above. The sale may be postponed or adjourned by the attorney for the mortgagee. The description of the premises contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

**Other terms to be announced at the sale.**

Mark R. Josselyn,  
Present holder of said mortgage  
05/20, 05/27, 06/03/2021

COMMONWEALTH OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
THE TRIAL COURT  
PROBATE AND FAMILY  
COURT DEPARTMENT  
Hampden Division  
Docket No. HD17P0403EA  
SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Estate of:  
**James Peter Sutherland a/k/a James Sutherland or Pete Sutherland**

Late of:  
Blandford in the County of Hampden, deceased, intestate

NOTICE

A petition has been presented to said Court for leave to sell at private sale certain real estate of said deceased.

If you desire to object to the allowance of said petition, you or your attorney must file a written appearance in said Court at **Springfield** on or before 10:00 in the forenoon on **June 28, 2021**.

WITNESS, **BARBARA M. HYLAND**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court at Springfield, the twenty-seventh day of May two thousand and twenty-one.

Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate & Family Court Dept.  
06/03/2021





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HELP WANTED

**TOWN OF BECKET**  
**Seasonal Job Opportunity**  
The Town of Becket seeks a Summer Laborer  
to work with the Highway Department.  
This position will be up to 32 hours per  
week, Monday to Thursday 7:00am-3:30pm.  
Requirements: general landscaping for Town  
Departments, the ability to drive a one-ton  
truck, and operate other small equipment i.e.  
lawnmowers, weed whacker, etc.  
Deadline: June 9, 2021. Posted until filled.  
Becket is an EOE. Send letter of interest to  
William Caldwell, Town Administrator,  
557 Main Street, Becket, MA 01223,  
administrator@townofbecket.org

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**TOWN OF BECKET SEASONAL**  
**JOB OPPORTUNITY!!!** The Town of  
Becket seeks a Summer Laborer to  
work with the Highway Department.  
This position will be up to 32 hours per  
week, Monday to Thursday 7:00am-  
3:30pm. Requirements: general  
landscaping for Town Departments,  
the ability to drive a one-ton truck,  
and operate other small equipment  
i.e. lawnmowers, weed whacker, etc.  
Deadline: June 9, 2021. Posted until  
filled. Becket is an EOE. Send letter of  
interest to **William Caldwell, Town**  
**Administrator, 557 Main Street,**  
**Becket, MA 01223, administra-**  
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cense, OSHA 30 & Hydraulics License  
Preferred. Salary is commensurate  
with experience. Email resume to  
**pjc@abuilders.com**

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



**EQUAL HOUSING  
OPPORTUNITY**

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised  
herein is subject to the Federal Fair  
Housing Act, which makes it illegal to  
advertise "any preference, limitation, or  
discrimination because of race, color,  
religion, sex, handicap, familial status,  
or national origin, or intention to make  
any such preference, limitation, or dis-  
crimination." We will not knowingly ac-  
cept any advertising for real estate  
which is in violation of the law. All per-  
sons are hereby informed that all  
dwellings advertised are available on  
an equal opportunity basis.

VACATION  
RENTALS

**WARM WEATHER IS** Year Round  
In Aruba. The water is safe, and the  
dining is fantastic. Walk out to the  
beach. 3-Bedroom weeks available.  
Sleeps 8. Email: carolaction@aol.com  
for more information.

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this  
newspaper is subject to the Federal  
Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes  
it illegal to advertise any preference,  
limitation or discrimination based on  
race, color, religion, sex, handicap,  
familial status (number of children and  
or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry,  
age, marital status, or any intention to  
make any such preference, limitation or  
discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept  
any advertising for real estate that is in  
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby  
informed that all dwellings advertising in  
this newspaper are available on an equal  
opportunity basis. To complain about  
discrimination call The Department of  
Housing and Urban Development " HUD"  
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.  
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll  
free number for the hearing impaired is  
1-800-927-9275.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call toll free: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$10.00	22	Base Price \$11.00
23	Base Price \$10.00	24	Base Price \$11.00
25	Base Price \$12.00	26	Base Price \$12.50
27	Base Price \$12.00	28	Base Price \$13.00
29	Base Price \$14.00	30	Base Price \$14.50
31	Base Price \$14.00	32	Base Price \$15.00
33	Base Price \$16.00	34	Base Price \$16.50
35	Base Price \$16.00	36	Base Price \$17.00
37	Base Price \$18.00	38	Base Price \$18.50
39	Base Price \$18.00	40	Base Price \$19.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ Cash ☐ Check# \_\_\_\_\_

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of charge: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Hilltowns

Circulation: 11,900

Buy the Hilltowns ZONE for \$9.50 for 20 words  
plus 50¢ for each additional word.  
Add \$10 for a second Zone or add \$15 to run in  
ALL THREE ZONES.



First ZONE base price \_\_\_\_\_ Includes additional words

Add a second ZONE **\$10.00**

Add a third ZONE **\$5.00**

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_

x Number of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Run my ad in the following ZONE(s):

☐ Hilltowns

☐ Suburban

☐ Quabbin

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

QUABBIN & SUBURBAN  
FRIDAY AT NOON

HILLTOWNS  
MONDAY AT NOON



# SCHOOLS & YOUTH

## MAKING HER MARK



Hampshire Regional High School Senior Maggie Rubeck achieves her 100th hit in softball. Rubeck, a three-sport outstanding athlete, will be attending Eastern Connecticut State University and will major in health science. Pictured is Coach Brian McGan presenting Rubeck with the 100th hit game ball.

Submitted photo by Norm Cotnoir

# PLAINFIELD

## DEDICATION UNVEILED



Plainfield Firefighter Lieutenant and EMT Rob Shearer, left, and Firefighter Mert Taylor, Jr. unveil the bronze lettered, powder-coated steel sign at the Dedication festivities at the Public Safety Complex this past Saturday, May 29, attended by over 100 residents, guests, and mutual aid departments.

Submitted photo by David Alvord

*Parents & Coaches*  
**SEND US YOUR NEWS & PHOTOS**  
**email us at: [countryjournal@turley.com](mailto:countryjournal@turley.com)**

# FAMILY VACCINATION CLINIC

In collaboration with the  
City of Northampton Health Department

**COVID-19 Vaccine is Free!**  
Appointments and walk-in availability

**Saturday, June 5th, 9am-12pm**

Stanton Hall, 26 Russell Road, Huntington, MA  
Please call for an apointment: 413-667-3009, ext. 261

- You will receive the Pfizer vaccine in two doses, three weeks apart
  - Second dose will be on **June 26th, same time and place**
- All people **12 and older** are eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine

If you have an ID and/or an insurance card, please bring it.

You will be able to get your vaccine even if you do not have an ID or insurance.



**Hilltown Community  
Health Center**

# RUSSELL

## Noble View trails open to public

RUSSELL — AMC Noble View Outdoor Center has officially reopened for business! Noble View’s peaceful mountaintop location overlooks the Pioneer Valley and features 360 acres of woodlands, trails, and farm fields.

Stay in one of the dog friendly self-service cottages or at a campsite. Day hikers are also welcome to explore the 12 miles of trails on the property.

Noble View’s new caretaker, Nan, is always happy to say hello or give hike recommendations to guests and visitors. To learn more, visit [www.outdoors.org/destinations/massachusetts-and-new-hampshire/noble-view/](http://www.outdoors.org/destinations/massachusetts-and-new-hampshire/noble-view/).

## June 7 election features no contested races

RUSSELL — There are no contested races on the ballot for the Town Election on Monday, June 7.

The following positions and candidates on the ballot are for three year terms unless otherwise stated: Selectman, Thomas Kulig Jr.; Moderator, J. Illtyd Fernandez-Sierra, one year term; Gateway Regional School Committee, Tara Balboni; Library Trustee, Gloria Farrell; Tree Warden, Louis Garlo, one year term; Cable T.V. Commissioner, Louis Garlo; Cemetery Commissioner, Karen McTaggart; Municipal Light Board, Louis Garlo; Sewer Commissioner, Dennis Moran; Water Commissioner, Roger Bush Jr.; Constable, Gloria Farrell; Planning Board, William Hardie Sr., James Oleksak, Michael Carpenter, three seats available.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



[www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)